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MONTANA FCONOMIC INDICATORS

AN ANALYSIS OF PAST AND PRESENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

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Volume VII Number 3

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Bureau of Reclamation

Bonneville Power Administration

Montana Dakota Utilities

Montana Power Company

Pacific Power and Light

Mountain Bell Telephone Company

Business Week

Employment, Hours and Earnings, and Labor Turnover data produced in cooperation with U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Employment and Training Administration.

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DEFINITIONS

<u>Seasonal Adjustment-</u> A mathematical procedure in which average seasonal fluctuations are removed from the origional data leaving a time series that may be analyzed for underlying trends. Seasonal adjustment will be designated by the terms seasonally adjusted, adjusted, or adj.. All indicators are seasonally adjusted unless noted, in which case the origional data is presented and designated by the terms not seasonally adjusted, raw data, unadjusted, or unadj.

Economic Indicators- Statistical time series whose cyclical characteristics are known and fairly stable, particularly in the timing of their cyclical peaks and troughs relative to business cycles turns. Economic Indicators are used for the interpretation of past, current, and anticipation of prospective business conditions.

<u>Business</u> <u>Cycles--Sequences</u> of expansions and contractions of aggregate economic activity such as production, employment, income, and trade are defined as business cycles.

<u>Leading Indicator</u>- An economic time series that tends to reverse direction sufficiently in advance of changes in the business cycle.

Coinciding Indicator- An economic time series that parallels changes in the business cycle.

<u>Lagging Indicator-</u> An economic time series that reverses direction after that of the business cycle.

Selected Indicator- An economic time series whose timing to business cycles is unknown, but is of interest to Montana's economy.

<u>Index-</u> Any economic time series which indicates change in a factor from a reference year. The reference year is designated as 100 in this publication and may be selected arbitrarily. All indexes in this publication will designate the year selected, such as 1967 = 100; 1972 = 100, etc.

Montana Composite Index- A composite of six indicators of employment and economic activity: Building Permits, Manufacturing Employment: Average Weekly Hours in Manufacturing, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Accession Rate in Manufacturing, and Layoff rate in Manufacturing. A reverse trend has been used for the Layoff Rate and Average Weekly Initial Claims. The components are converted to a series of standardized changes and weights according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators in making the composite; indexed to 1972 = 100.

Real Spendable Earnings- Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers represents the earnings of a hypothetical worker after deductions for State Income, Federal Income, and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be the sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard tax tables. Purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national ALL Items Consumer Price Index.

Because of new benchmarks and new seasonal adjustment factors, some of the series in this publication have been changed to take into account the latest information available. 1979 benchmarks, which reflect the most recent and complete estimates of employment, account for revisions to indicators dealing with total and industry detailed employment. These benchmark levels are revised annually to adjust for sampling errors and any changes to industrial classifications. In addition, all of those series requiring seasonal adjustment have also been revised to reflect the most recent seasonal adjustment factors. Changes in these seasonal series can be attributed to the inclusion of 1979 data in the BLS seasonal adjustment method.

All numbers used in this publication are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise noted.

THIRD QUARTER ANALYSIS: 1979

Montana's economy showed signs of improvement over the second quarter, 1980. Of the leading, coinciding and selected indicators, over half of them registered positive movement. Although the indicators reported improvement, nearly all the industrial employment indicators had a negative impact on Montana's economy.

Of the leading indicators, only two of them showed negative movement.

They were Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations and the Manufacturing Quit Rate. A 36% increase was noted in the quit rate over last quarter with only a slight increase noted over the third quarter of 1979.

The total number of Building Permits rose considerably during the third quarter. A monthly average of 57 more permits were reported over the second quarter. In the third quarter, 1979 there were 131 more permits issued each month than in July through September, 1980. Residential Building Permits increased in much the same proportions as the Total Building Permits.

The number of New Business Telephone Installations and New Corporations both doubled in size from July through September. In the second quarter New Business Telephones and New Corporations totaled approximately 250 and 500 respectively and in the third quarter totaled 489 New Business Telephone Installations and 949 New Corporations.

The Manufacturing Layoff Rate and the Manufacturing Accession Rate both recorded substantial positive movement in the third quarter. The Layoff Rate dropped from a quarterly total of 19.9 per 100 employees to 7.3.

At the same time the Accession Rate rose from 2.0 in the second quarter to 16.8 in the third quarter. The biggest reason for these changes is the return of workers in the Lumber and Woods industry. New Hires in Manufacturing increased slightly since June.

The number of Average Weekly Insured Unemployed dropped slightly in the third quarter. This is the only Coinciding Indicator with positive movement. The Unemployment Total and the Unemployment Rate both registered small increases over the second quarter, but showed large increases since the third quarter, 1979.

All Electric Power Sales in Montana were down in the third quarter. Car Registrations have been dropping since the first quarter. The year-to-date total is 15,747 compared to 17,225 for the same period of 1979.

Selected Indicators registered mixed movement with three indicators showing positive movement. They were Oil and Gas Wells Completed, Taxable Gallons of Gasoline and Help Wanted Advertising.

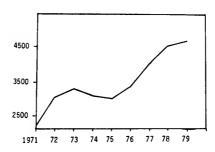
Oil and Gas Wells completed were up 20% over the second quarter and up nearly 60% over July through September, 1979. Help Wanted Advertising showed only a slight increase, as did Taxable Gallons of Gasoline. Natural Gas Withdraws and Oil Produced both dropped considerably since June.

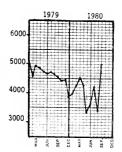
Anaconda Company's layoffs in Anaconda and Great Falls are expected to affect the local economies greatly but the effect may not be seen as strongly on a statewide level.

LEADING INDICATORS

TOTAL NON-AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS

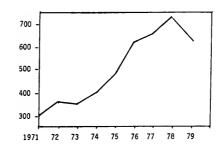
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	5,159 4,585 4,925 4,890 4,738 4,675 4,738 4,670 4,573 4,426 4,479 3,891	3,983 4,270 4,525 4,525 3,337 3,649 4,243 3,394 4,999

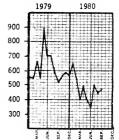




TOTAL NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS

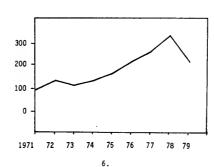
	1979	1980
January	556	657
February	549	571
March	660	411
April	548	494
May	891	403
June	704	351
July	704	507
August	590	447
September	520	465
October	567	
November	586	
December	579	

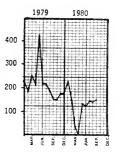




NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

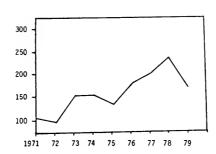
	1979	1980
January	231	234
February	193	184
March	252	39
April	220	4
May	421	135
June	228	121
July	220	148
August	196	143
September	159	153
October	158	
November	185	
December	183	

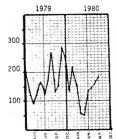




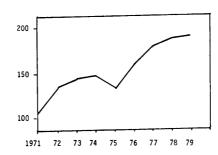
NEW BUS INESS TELEPHONES

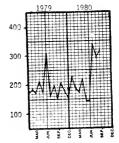
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November	201 137 92 136 168 123 171 269 133 156 288 220	135 218 154 58 53 138 145 159 185





	CORPORATIONS	
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November	176 186 174 213 175 307 161 195 156 205	227 190 176 216 146 145 339 294 316
December	154	

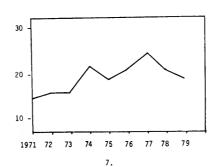


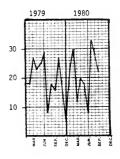


WITHDRAWALS
and
DISSOLUTIONS
of
CORPORATIONS

NEW

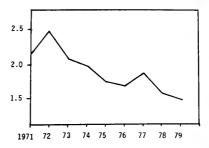
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October	18 18 27 23 25 29 8 18 16	21 30 12 20 18 8 33 28 22
November December	16 5	
December	3	

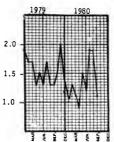




MANUFACTURING QUIT RATE (PER 100 EMPLOYEES)

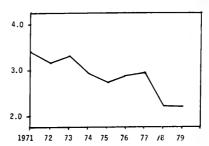
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	1.9 1.7 1.7 1.3 1.5 1.3 1.7 1.3 1.5 2.0	1.0 1.3 1.1 .9 1.5 1.2 1.9 1.9
DECEMBEL	1.4	

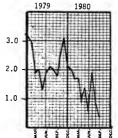




MANUFACTURING NEW HIRES RATE (PER 100 EMPLOYEES)

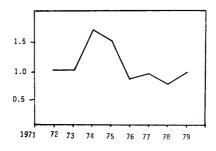
	<u>1979</u>	1980
January	3.2	2.0
February	2.9	1.7
March	1.9	1.7
April 1	2.0	.9
May	1.3	1.4
June	1.9	.6
July	2.1	1.9
August	2.0	.8
5eptember	1.8	.4
October	2.5	• •
November	3.1	
December	2.1	

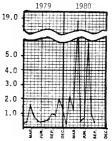




MANUFACTURING LAYOFF RATE (PER 100 EMPLOYEES)

	1979	1980
January February	0.3	0.3
March	1.6	1.3
April	0.8	18.8
May	0.5	.5
June	0.4	.7
Ju1y	0.5	5.9
August	0.6	1.0
September	1.0	. 4
October	0.9	
November	2.0	
December	1.3	

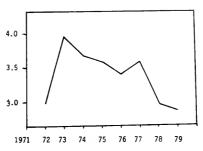


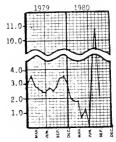


LEADING INDICATORS

MANUFACTURING ACCESSION RATE (Per 100 employees)

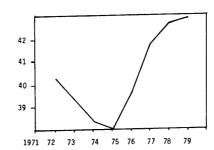
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July September October Noctober December	3.1 3.6 2.9 2.7 2.5 2.4 2.7 2.5 2.8 3.4 3.5	2.0 1.9 1.3 0.0 3.8 10.8 2.2





MANUFACTURING AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

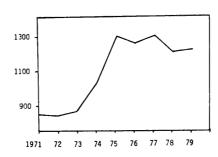
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July September October November December	41.5 41.4 41.8 41.6 43.3 43.6 43.9 43.2 44.0 43.4 43.6	44.8 43.2 43.6 42.2 42.5 42.8 43.0 42.8 45.0

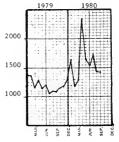


	1979	1980	
45 -			
43 -	M	11/1	
41 -	7		
39 -			
	JUN SEP.	DEC.	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS 1979 198

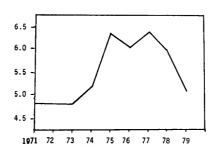
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July September October November	1,382 1,372 1,172 1,286 1,153 1,219 1,076 1,102 1,098 1,162 1,191 1,314	1,640 1,197 1,299 2,346 1,659 1,551 1,749 1,443 1,435

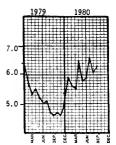






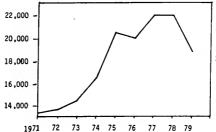
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September	6.4 5.7 5.3 5.5 5.2 5.0 5.1 4.7 4.6	5.9 5.5 6.5 5.8 5.9 6.6 6.1 6.3
October November	4.6	
December	4.9	

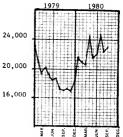




UNEMPLOYMENT TOTAL

1070	
19/9	1980
23,537 20,913 19,462 20,290 19,386 18,579 18,668 17,285 17,077 17,313 17,081 18,438	21,882 21,036 20,749 24,512 21,708 22,089 24,574 22,477 23,004
	20,913 19,462 20,290 19,386 18,579 18,668 17,285 17,077 17,313 17,081

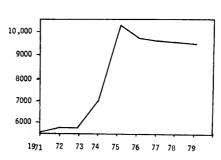


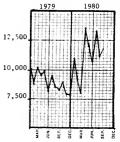


AVERAGE WEEKLY INSURED UNEMPLOYED

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December



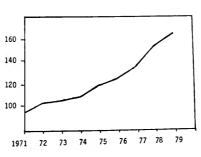


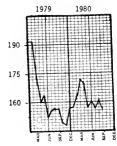


COINCIDING INDICATORS

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICAL POWER SALES INDEX (1967=100)

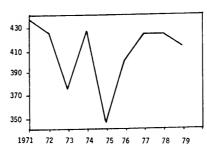
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	191.9 192.0 173.2 160.0 163.7 153.3 155.2 156.0 156.5 151.8 150.6	157.7 163.6 172.4 169.7 157.2 160.3 156.8 160.8

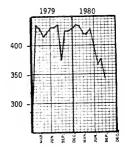




MANUFACTURING ELECTRICAL POWER SALES INDEX (1967=100)

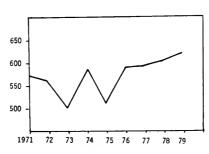
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July	285.3 435.2 430.1 417.9 423.8 430.7 431.0	435.2 432.3 421.6 420.4 429.5 399.7 366.0
August September	435.0 374.7	376.3 344.0
October	426.9 425.8	•
November December	423.8	

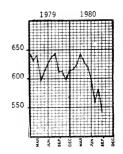




COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL POWER SALES INDEX (1967=100)

	19/9	1980
January	642.5	515.9
February	634.3	627.6
March	640.3	642.6
April	597.2	629.6
May	614.4	620.9
June	627.0	598.3
July	638.0	558.1
August	644.6	580.6
September	613.1	543.7
October	613.8	0.017
November	598.4	
December	613.4	

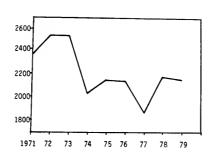


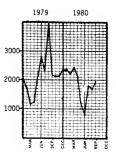


COINCIDING INDICATORS

NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS

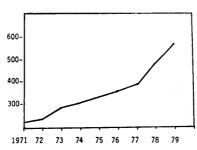
1979	1980
2001 1709 1165 1201 2102 2802 2299 3946 2154 2111 2128	2335 2207 2427 2109 1224 1801 1682 1962
2335	
	2001 1709 1165 1201 2102 2802 2299 3946 2154 2111

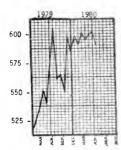




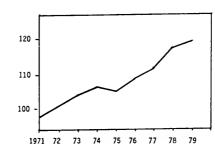
MONTANA PERSONAL INCOME (IN MILLION DOLLARS)

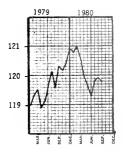
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	520 527 536 551 539 573 604 564 568 550 596 586	596 591.8 601.1 595.3 596.5 602.3 590.2



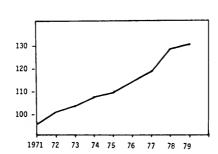


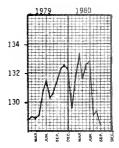
	NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT INDEX U.S.: 1972=100	
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	119.0 119.3 119.5 118.9 119.1 119.5 120.1 119.6 120.3 120.2 120.4 120.9	120.8 121.0 120.5 120.0 119.7 119.3 119.8 119.9 119.8





	EMPLOYME	CULTURAL NT INDEX 1972=100
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	128.7 129.0 128.9 129.1 130.6 131.5 130.3 130.6 131.4 132.3 132.5 132.3	129.6 131.5 133.3 131.7 132.6 132.8 129.1 129.4 128.4

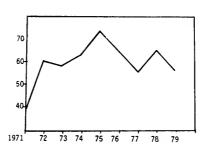


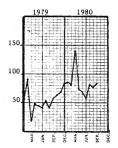


SELECTED INDICATORS

OIL AND GAS WELLS COMPLETED

57 92 19 49 45 41 54 42 57 64 68	86 80 140 74 70 58 82 77 84
	92 19 49 45 41 54 42 57 64 68

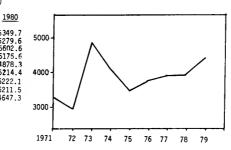


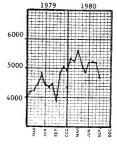


NATURAL GAS WITHDRAWLS (MILLION CU.FT.)

1979

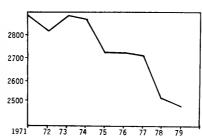
January	4070.8	5349.
February	4204.4	5279.
March	4268.4	5602.
April	4469.2	5175.
May	4851.6	4878.
June	4435.7	5214.
July	4347.9	5222.
August	4487.7	5211.
September	3862.1	4647.
October .	4867.7	
November	5089.8	
December	4915.8	

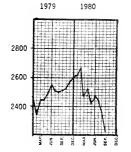




OIL PRODUCTION (THOUSAND BARRELS)

1979 1980 2470.9 2345.6 2620.0 2667.6 2478.7 January February 2441.1 2433.1 2497.9 2549.9 2517.9 2504.5 March April May June July 2520.1 2411.1 2465.9 2447.9 2361.6 August 2518.3 2529.6 2577.5 2609.8 September 2232.2 October November December

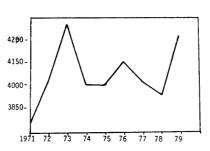


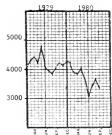


SELECTED INDICATORS



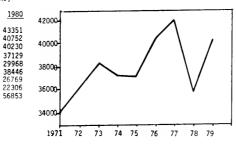
	1979	1980
January	4154	4249
February	4321	3932
March	4458	3865
April	4321	4053
May	4874	3677
June	4147	3071
July	3988	3466
August	3941	3694
September	4032	3384
October November	4226 4166	•
December	4297	

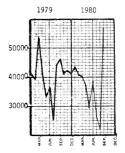




TAXABLE GALLONS GASOLINE (THOUSAND GALLONS)

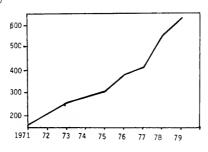
	1979	
January	41942	
February	39609	
March	53881	
Apr11	41105	
May	33891	
June	36678	
July	25340	
August	44470	
September	46161	
October	41248	
November	42245	
December	41162	

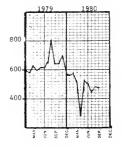




HELP WANTED ADVERTISING (FROM 5 MAJOR CITY DAILIES)

	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	597 583 630 596 617 615 658 801 643 644 696 577	567 577 514 384 531 508 445 512 497





Montana's employment during the third quarter dropped in all industries except the Lumber and Wood Products Industry. Lumber and Wood Products employment averaged 7,800 per month in the second quarter and rose to 8,700 per month during the third quarter. The main reason for this rise in employment is the return of the workers to different lumber mills around the state.

Non-Agricultural Wage and Salary employment dropped on an average of approximately 3,600 per month--from July through September. Average employment for the third quarter was 275,800 compared to about 285,000 for the same period in 1979.

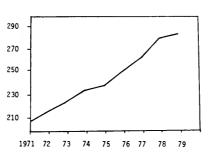
Employment in the Mining industry was affected by the Anaconda Company's labor dispute from July through September. Employment dropped from an average of 7,700 in the second quarter to nearly 6,600 during the third quarter.

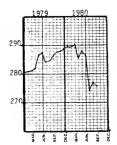
Wholesale and Retail trade employment during the third quarter was about 800 lower than the monthly average in the second quarter, and 900 lower than the average for July through September, 1979. The reduction is due mostly to the decrease in Retail trade employment since June.

The Service Industry and Finance Insurance and Real Estate recorded only slight decreases in employment. Government employment was reduced by an average of over 1000 employees per month during the third quarter.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY (IN THOUSANDS)

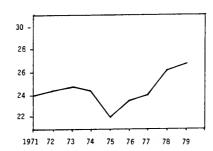
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	280.6 280.8 281.3 282.0 286.7 287.7 284.1 284.7 286.3 287.7 288.0 288.6	289.6 289.4 290.3 285.2 286.3 274.3 277.1 275.9

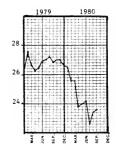




MAMUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

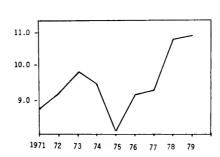
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	26.5 27.6 26.8 26.3 26.5 27.1 27.2 26.9 27.0 27.0 26.7	26.5 25.6 25.6 23.8 24.0 24.2 22.6 23.4 23.6

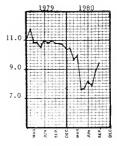




LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS (IN THOUSANDS)

	(III MOCSANDS)	
	1979	1980
January	11.2	10.5
February	11.8	9.7
March	10.9	10.0
April	10.9	7.6
May	10.5	7.7
June	11.0	8.2
July	10.9	7.9
August	11.0	8.9
September	10.8	9.4
October	10.8	
November	10.7	
December	10.4	

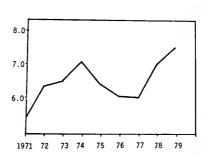


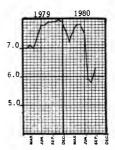


INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

MINING (IN THOUSANDS) (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

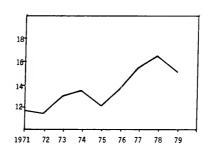
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November	7.0 7.1 7.0 7.4 7.8 7.8 7.9 7.9 8.0 7.9	7.6 7.2 7.6 7.8 7.8 7.5 5.9 5.8 6.3

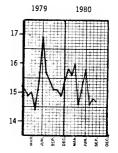




CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)

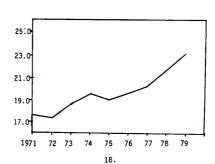
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	15.2 14.9 15.0 14.4 16.9 15.7 15.4 15.1 14.9	15.8 15.6 16.0 14.6 15.1 15.8 14.6 14.8

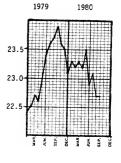




TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES (IN THOUSANDS)

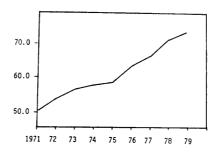
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July September October November December	22.4 22.5 22.7 22.6 23.3 23.4 23.6 23.7 23.9 23.6 23.5 23.1	23.3 23.2 23.3 23.2 23.5 22.9 23.1 22.7 22.7

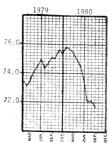




WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE (IN THOUSANDS)

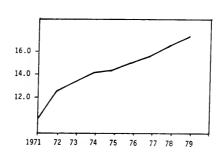
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	73.4 73.1 73.5 74.0 74.4 74.9 74.3 74.6 75.1 75.0 75.6 76.3	75.8 75.7 75.4 75.0 74.5 73.5 72.1 71.7

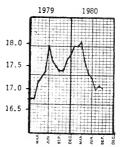




WHOLESALE TRADE (IN THOUSANDS)

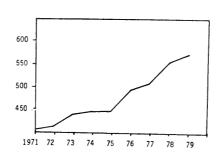
	1979	1980
January February March Apr11 May June August September October November December	16.7 16.7 17.2 17.3 17.4 18.0 17.6 17.5 17.4 17.4 17.6	18.0 18.1 17.7 17.3 17.2 17.0 17.2

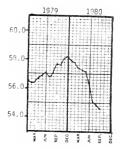




RETAIL TRADE (IN THOUSANDS)

	1979	1980
January February March April May June	56.5 56.4 56.4 56.7 56.9 57.1	57.9 57.8 57.4 57.3 57.1
July August	56.8 57.1	55.1
September	57.7	54.9 54.6
October	57.6	
November December	58.1 58.2	

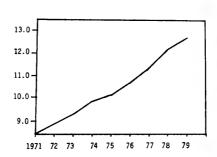


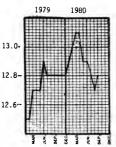


INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE (IN THOUSANDS)

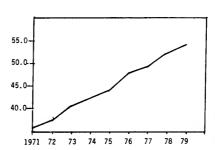
	<u>1979</u>	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	12.5 12.5 12.7 12.7 12.7 12.8 12.8 12.8 12.8 12.8	12.9 13.0 13.1 12.9 12.9 12.8 12.7

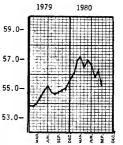




SERVICES (IN THOUSANDS)

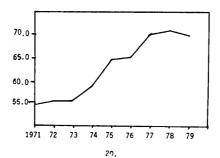
	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November	53.8 54.5 54.5 54.5 554.8 54.7 54.8 554.9	56.0 56.9 57.2 56.5 57.0 56.7 55.8 56.4 55.3
0ecember	55.5	

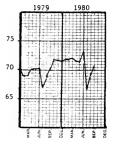


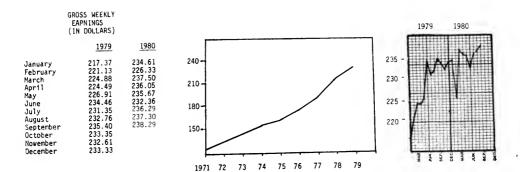


GOVERNMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	1979	1980
January February March April May June July August September October November December	70.0 69.1 69.3 70.1 70.2 70.3 67.4 69.1 70.3 71.8 71.7	71.8 72.0 72.1 71.7 71.5 73.2 66.7 69.3 70.8







REAL WEEKLY SPENDABLE EARNINGS (IN DOLLARS) 1979 1980 1980 1979 84.82 81.40 84.12 82.52 81.39 89.67 90.29 91.02 89.68 January 92.0 90.0 February March Apr11 90.0 85.0 May 89.19 90.18 78.93 June 80.28 80.01 79.50 88.60 87.95 88.0 July August 80.0 September 90.80 87.53 86.0 October November 86.70 December 85.89 JUN, 36.P. CEC

74 75

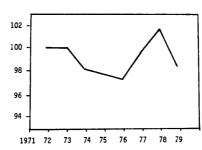
1971 72

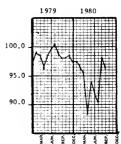
73

78 79

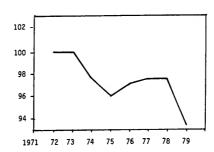
77

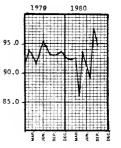
	MONTANA COMPOSITE INDEX (1972=100)		
	1979	1980	
January February March April May June July August September October November December	96.9 99.2 98.6 96.2 98.5 99.7 100.5 98.9 98.0 98.3	97.5 96.4 95.6 88.4 94.0 91.9 90.4 98.1 96.4	





	MARGINAL EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENT INDEX (1972=100)		
	1979	1980	
January February March April May June July August September October November December	91.9 93.9 93.1 91.5 93.2 95.3 94.5 93.2 93.1 93.6 92.8	92.4 92.4 92.6 86.2 93.6 91.4 89.1 97.6 94.9	





EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY P. 0. Box 1728 Helena, Montana 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 24 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.

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